UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. JENKINS

DATE: 10/8/75

FROM : D.W. MOORE, JR.

SUBJECT: DAN RATHER, CORRESPONDENT
[redacted]
SANFORD SOCOLOW
CBS NEWS
VISIT WITH THE DIRECTOR, 10/6/75

With regard to CBS' request to the Director authorizing CBS to interview Shanklin, Hosty, Fain and deBrueys, I contacted [redacted] this morning indicating to him that the Attorney General felt in view of the on-going investigation presently being conducted permission was therefore denied at this time for such interview by CBS.

[redacted] indicated the President of CBS News, Richard Salant, was a very close friend of Attorney General Levi and that Salant may call Levi and appeal to him to allow CBS to interview Fain and deBrueys. [redacted] indicated that they respected the position taken with regard to the on-going investigation in Dallas but felt that the interviews of Fain and deBrueys were totally unrelated to our interviews being conducted in Dallas. He said he had hoped that we could allow such interviews of Fain and deBrueys because CBS has certain information that would obviously not be presented in the best light for the FBI. I asked [redacted] if he could indicate to me what information CBS has. He said in confidence that they (CBS) have a source who he identified as a former FBI informant, who was known to deBrueys and that this source has indicated that Oswald was an FBI informant and that after the assassination of President Kennedy, deBrueys told his source that if he (the source) said anything to the Warren Commission that he (deBrueys) would "kick his a--". [redacted] indicated that this obviously would not present the FBI in the best possible light. [redacted] indicated if the FBI was able to make some statement in this regard it would obviously put us in a much better position.

With regard to Fain, [redacted] indicated their information is that in August, 1963, Fain debriefed Oswald upon his return to the United States from Russia and that they merely were desirous of contacting Fain in order to establish this fact.

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. [illegible]
1 - Mr. [illegible]

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Section 182

He concluded by saying that he feels that if the FBI could permit these interviews of deBrueys and Fain it would obviously be to the FBI's advantage rather than leaving open questions to that which he indicated above.

He asked if Mr. Kelley would be disturbed if Salant contacted the Attorney General. I indicated I certainly did not think so but it would obviously be Mr. Salant's prerogative as to whether he would attempt to intercede by contacting the Attorney General.

I asked [redacted] when CBS proposed to air the commentary on President Kennedy's assassination. He indicated CBS was most desirous of doing so as soon as possible, however, it would be a minimum of 5 weeks before such public airing would take place. He thanked me for our prompt reply and indicated that CBS wants to present the entire issue in the best light possible which, in fact, precipitated their contact with Mr. Kelley.

I gathered from my conversation with [redacted] that if approval were given for them to interview deBrueys and Fain that they would present to us the questions which they propose to ask. [redacted] did not indicate this but I gathered from inferences that this might be possible.

I discussed [redacted] conversation with Mr. Callahan indicating to him the possibility of Salant contacting the Attorney General. Mr. Callahan, in turn, contacted Deputy Attorney General Tyler indicating to him the fact that Salant may contact Attorney General Levi for his approval for CBS to contact Fain and deBrueys.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.